

stupid," and said Friday the incident could have been avoided if the U.S. servicemen had simply paid for sex. The commander of the Pacific fleet in essence said, if they had taken the money that they spent to buy a van, they could have bought a girl.

Mr. President, that is a sickening statement, and I want to commend my colleague from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, for responding very quickly when she heard of this. And what she said is very important. What she said is that rape is not about sex, and it is not about money. It is a violent act.

I am very pleased that on the floor this evening is the author of the Violence Against Women Act, Senator BIDEN of Delaware. I was so honored when I was in the House to be coauthor and carried the bill on that side, and after many years the bill became law.

But I say to my colleagues that until this attitude changes, until people view rape as a violent act—it is about power, it is about the abuse of power—then we are never going to make any progress.

For the commander of the Pacific fleet to have said this—and he did apologize, I am happy to say—it is extraordinary. I only hope that the Secretary of Defense will take proper action in this matter.

Mr. President, I know others will speak about this tonight. But I am going to shift very briefly to another subject.

NO BUDGET-NO PAY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we are in day 4 of the partial shutdown of the Federal Government. It is causing harm to many people in this country who require and need the services of the Federal Government, be they veteran, be they the elderly, or be they the business community. One example is someone desperately needed a passport in order to conduct some very important business for a small business, was denied it, and missed a chance maybe at the American dream. So we are dealing with a very serious circumstance.

There is 1 Federal employee who is getting paid during this period. They are all getting docked except for the Members of the Senate and the Members of the House.

I took to the floor last night with Senator SNOWE and Senator HARKIN to protest this situation. Where we stand is that the bill, the no budget-no pay bill, is stuck in the DC conference. And who knows? It may never emerge because the Speaker of the House is not pushing the no budget-no pay bill.

Senator SNOWE and I authored another bill, and we have been trying to get it before this body. The Republican side of the aisle has objected. Maybe they will not object tonight. Last night, the excuse was, gee, everyone had to go home. We cannot take it up. Well, what about today? We waited. Senator SNOWE was working hard to get it through. We could not get it.

Some of my colleagues are making charitable contributions. Some are leaving their money in escrow. Some are giving it back. And that is noble. But this is not about the good guys doing something; this is about institutional failure.

In case, my colleague, you want to know what people think about this, look at the poll in the San Francisco Examiner. They put out a telephone poll, and it came back today. Eighty-nine percent say we should not get our pay during the shutdown. By the way, they included the President, which our bill includes, and 11 percent say we should. That 11 percent maybe is our relatives.

But I have to tell you. This is a total and complete outrage. We should be treated like every other Federal employee. Our staffs are working into the night, and they are being docked. But not us.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed tonight to the Snowe-Boxer bill. I make that request.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. BOXER. Further, since it has been objected to, I ask unanimous consent that we go to the Snowe-Boxer bill the first thing in the morning.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. BOXER. Let me just say, is the time mine, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time. The Senator from California has the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you very much. I want to express my disappointment and my despair of this. We should not treat ourselves better than our own staff. We should not treat ourselves better than the good people who work for the Federal Government. I think now that we finally have seen the light here. There was an objection yesterday, there is an objection today, there is an objection for tomorrow, and I will be back in the morning making the same unanimous-consent request.

I am sad to say—I thought the Senate was bipartisan on this. Senator SNOWE has 27 Members in a bipartisan way on this bill, but you hear objection from the leadership, the Republican leadership, of the Senate. And I hope people let them know that they are wrong, that this is wrong.

Mr. BIDEN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. I will be brief. I know the Republican whip wants to speak.

Mr. President, I do not want to repeat what I said last night. I agree with Senator BOXER, Senator SNOWE, and Senator HARKIN about the fact that we should not be getting paid. I will not elaborate. I think it speaks for itself. It is clear.

THE OKINAWA RAPE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I want to speak very briefly to something that was called to my attention only an hour or 2 hours ago. That is, according to the wire services, Admiral Macke said, and I quote, with regard to the case where two Marines and a Navy seaman are on trial in Okinawa on charges that they abducted a 12-year-old girl on September 4 in a rental car, drove her to a secluded sugar cane field where one of the persons, Seaman Marcus D. Gill, admitted in court that he had raped the girl.

In response to that incident, which has international consequences for us, it is probably the most significant disagreement we have had with Japan, including trade agreements, caused as much of a stir and outrage, and understandable stir and outrage, on the part of the Japanese.

This admiral, probably one of the two or three most visible people known by name in Japan, because he is head of the Pacific Fleet, instead of him getting off of his ship, getting in a car and going to wherever the hell that family or the relatives of that child lived, and begging the forgiveness on the part of this Nation for something in the nature that occurred back when Attila the Hun came down into Japan and raped and pillaged centuries ago, instead of doing that, this fellow says—if this is true, this guy should be disciplined. If any one of us said this, it would be enough, in my view, for the voters to never vote for us again. If it were a Cabinet Member, we would probably dismiss them. We have had Cabinet Members dismissed for less insensitive things than this.

He says—if this is true, because what the press says is not always true; so that is the one caveat that I will make—but if he said, "I think that it was absolutely stupid, I've said several times," Macke said, "for the price they paid to rent the car they could have had a girl."

I realize I am accused, rightfully so, by my colleagues on occasion of being a little too emotional, but I want to tell you, if that were my daughter and that admiral said that, I would go find the son—I would go find him. I would look for him. I would—it would not be right; I would be wrong; it would be a violation of law—but I would find him and rip his ears off, if I could, or get killed in trying.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. BIDEN. I will yield to my friend from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I share my friend's anger. Where was this—how was this report carried?

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, it is carried by the AP Wire Service. Date: The 17th, today, 19:22 hours, Eastern Standard Time, Copyright 1995. All rights reserved, AM—

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank my friend. The AP.

Mr. BIDEN. Again, I will publicly apologize—I want to make this caveat.